

Virginia League Clubs All Ready for Opening To-Day

Strain Will Pitch Against Goobers in First Battle

COLTS AND GOOBERS READY FOR OPENING OF VIRGINIA LEAGUE

Season Starts To-Day in Richmond, Portsmouth and Roanoke—Griffin Will Pitch Charley Strain, While Busch Will Use Either Richmond or Hedgpeth.

PETERSBURG VS. RICHMOND.

Simmons, right field.
Spy, third base.
Busch, shortstop.
Spencer, centre field.
Krepps, second base.
Barnett, first base.
Blackstone, left field.
Brennagan, catcher.
Richmond, or
Hedgpeth, pitcher.

Eberts, centre field.
Bresnahan, third base.
Griffin, second base.
Raley, first base.
Piez, right field.
Luskey, catcher.
Newton, shortstop.
Tennant, left field.
Strain, pitcher.

Umpires—Colgate and Kennedy.

WEATHER FORECAST

For Richmond—Fair and warmer, with rising temperature.

BY GUS, MALBERT.

Returning to the normal form of vernal exercise, we are requested by the keeper of the exchequer to again announce:

"They're off!"

One or two "whoop-las" mingled joyously with a few rays and rains might conveniently be offered at this section of the narrative, but in the most polite circles they are at present taboo, being used solely by the haut ton upon select occasions when the gridiron substitutes for the diamond.

This is an anthem sung to the merry swing of that lilting melody, "He Smote the Sphere Severely for a Second-Sack Swat." Truly, the Virginia League begins to-day; begins as it has begun on several annual occasions, and as it will begin upon several additional annual occasions, if the fellow with the price and the fancy and the time continues to push the turnstile round by the swish of the coin.

To make the roundelay complete, we need add only that the greensward this afternoon, beginning at 4:30 o'clock, will be here and there sprinkled with the myrmidons of Swat, rigged in all their spiked regalia, and that the knight errants from the land of the groundpea will cross lances with the brave sons of Colville.

Properly translated, and as it should have been written in the original, Richmond and Petersburg will this afternoon engage in the first game of the 1913 baseball season in the Virginia League within the newly-completed Bradleyized enclosure to the west of a certain shoe manufactory and to the north of a hop-pressing emporium whose shadows lure and sometimes lead.

Some may have inferred, after looking through what has already been offered that a baseball season is aborning, despite the herculean effort to engulfi the point of interest in a Daytonian baptism of words. The inference is absolutely correct. Richmond and Petersburg will play here, Newport News will play in Roanoke and Norfolk will play in Portsmouth, if—the fellow with direct wire connection to the land where Boreas reigns so decrees.

Again indulging in the subjunctive, answer to Joe Heusler's commands, a battle will be fought. If it does not rain, and if the day is propitious, W. B. Bradley, secretary of the Richmond Baseball Club, will lead a cavalcade headed by a band and followed by the minions who wield the willow for pay in the rival camps, through the principal thoroughfares to give cordial welcome to a waiting populace that where the sand swirls and the wire-grass buds in

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OPPONENTS IN TO-DAY'S GAME



Charley Strain, who will toll for the Colts, and Clyde Richmond, who will probably be Helme Busch's selection.

Where Virginia League Clubs Play To-Day

Richmond vs. Petersburg, at Richmond.
Portsmouth vs. Norfolk, at Portsmouth.
Roanoke vs. Newport News, at Roanoke.
Umpires—Colgate and Kennedy, at Richmond.
McTague, at Roanoke.
Norcum, at Portsmouth.

tend the opener, provided, of course, that the weather is good.

Griff is making no predictions as to the result of the game. He feels that his club is it and ready to give a good account of itself. He is also of the opinion that in Eberts, Bresnahan, Raley, Piez, Luskey, Newton, Laval, Tennant, Strain and the rest of the pitching staff, he has a bunch of fellows who are bound to adjust themselves into a fighting whole. Helme Busch occupies nearly the same stand. He is promising nothing save that his team will fight to win. Under these conditions the fan is bound to be satisfied—if it just manages to stay reasonable from a weather standpoint.

Game Postponed Again.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Raleigh, N. C., April 16.—Fans were sorely disappointed to-day at a second postponement of the Wake Forest-Carolina ball game on account of rain. It cannot be played now until some time in May, if at all.

Goat Gets Owner in Court.
For permitting his goat to wander upon the premises and into the home of Mrs. Lizzie Taylor, the complainant, Frank Childers of Henrico, was fined \$1 and costs yesterday afternoon by Magistrate R. A. Smith. The animal is said to have raided the pantry in the Taylor home, breaking a number of dishes and destroying provisions. His ramble cost his owner \$5.75.

Lineup of Teams at Roanoke and Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH VS. NORFOLK.

Boyd, centre field.
Carter, second base.
Mundy, right field.
Cook, third base.
Hart, left field.
Phelan, first base.
Reichart, shortstop.
Garvin, catcher.
Navenpara, or
Verbout, pitcher.

Umpire—Norcum.

ROANOKE VS. NEWPORT NEWS.

McCrackin, right field.
Pressly, first base.
McComas, shortstop.
Ginn, centre field.
Mattis, left field.
Irmischer, third base.
Shields, second base.
Lafitte, catcher.
Efrid, or
Gardin, pitcher.

Umpire—McTague.

AVIATOR GRAY WILL FLY TO-DAY

Weather Prevents Flight From Petersburg Yesterday—Gives Exhibition To-Morrow.

Unable to make his flight from Petersburg to Richmond yesterday because of untoward weather conditions, Aviator George A. Gray, who, with Miss Jack Stearns, will give an exhibition of aviation at the State Fair Grounds to-morrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, will try again this afternoon to make the trip. There is nothing particularly hazardous about a trip from Petersburg to Richmond via the air route, says Mr. Gray—a statement which will gain little credence from the people of this city, but he was unwilling to deprive the people along the way of seeing him in his flight.

This product of the Wright school is a strong believer in the educational value of flying. He believes that this will be the practical method of eliminating distances in the future. He feels that most people are skeptics so far as the flying machine is concerned, and that only by actually seeing the machines take their way through the air will they finally become convinced of its absolute practicability, both from a spectacular and a utilitarian standpoint.

"I could easily have brought the aeroplane back yesterday," he said, "but no one would have been able to see me. Under present atmospheric conditions the upper air is misty. There is any quantity of water in the air immediately before and after a storm, notwithstanding the fact that the people of Richmond must have reached the conclusion that about all the water there was has fallen here within the past day or two. I have nearly come to that conclusion myself. I want everybody to see me fly, not that I am proud of myself or my ability, but the success of aviation depends upon the popular mind being able to not only see, but understand the science of aerial navigation, and my

success being largely dependent upon popular approval of not alone my work, but of aviation in general, I feel that I must be one of the means of bringing this knowledge directly before the people, so that they can grasp it."

Miss Stearns is not exactly a teacher of aviation. She is more correctly speaking one of the disciples of this newest and probably most hazardous sport, for in its final estimate aviation is at the present time a sport. She will give an actual demonstration of how she enjoys it to-morrow, when she ascends with Gray. She has suffered many disappointments since reviving the dream of aviation, but none so poignant as the refusal on the part of the aviator to carry her from Richmond to Petersburg. Emphatically she says that the only way he can make a demonstration is to allow her to travel along while he is doing all of the didoes which an expert alone can perform while in the air.

Gray has made no promises yet. He will take his fair companion just so long as he feels that there is no danger for her, but if there is the slightest bit of apprehension, or if he feels particularly good and wishes to display some new tricks just for the sheer joy of pleasing himself, Miss Stearns even though she pleads, will be left with one foot on the ground.

All school children in Richmond are invited to the Fair Grounds to-morrow afternoon. The only stipulation is that they be accompanied by their parents. Both Mr. Gray and Miss Stearns will take particular delight in telling the little people all about flying. The aeroplane will be explained and if some of the stouter hearts would take a ride aloft, they will be taken provided, of course, the parent is willing.

While Gray performs all of the various manipulations that have made other aviators famous, he is not of the daring old variety. He prefers the safe and sane, not that he is unwilling to take risks, but because he believes that by proving that the aircraft is safe he can win friends to both himself and aviation.

Gray expects to leave Petersburg at 4 o'clock to-day and will arrive here at about 5 o'clock. His route will be after crossing the James down Main Street to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. After circling the monument he will fly west along Main Street to Ninth and up Ninth to Broad and west along Broad Street to the Fair Grounds.

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By George McManus

